

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A device comprising:

at least one applicator, said at least one applicator adapted to dispense a coating material on a stent; said stent comprising struts having regions with exposed surfaces disposed around the periphery of said strut; and

a control system for positioning a stent and said at least one applicator relative to one another in spaced apart relation so that a coating can be dispensed from said applicator onto said stent, wherein said coating material is allowed to flow around said strut surfaces to form a substantially uniform coating on a plurality of said exposed strut surfaces.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein said at least one applicator comprises one applicator disposed on an exterior aspect of a substantially cylindrical stent.

3. The device of claim 1, wherein said at least one applicator comprises two applicators disposed on an exterior aspect of a substantially cylindrical stent.

4. The device of claim 1, wherein said at least one applicator comprises one applicator disposed on an interior aspect of a substantially cylindrical stent.

5. The device of claim 1, wherein said at least one applicator comprises two applicators disposed on an interior aspect of a substantially cylindrical stent.

6. The device of claim 1, wherein said at least one applicator comprises at least one applicator disposed on an exterior aspect and at least one applicator disposed on an interior aspect of a substantially cylindrical stent.

7. The device of claim 1, further comprising a detector for sensing the stent topography, the detector being in operative communication with said control system.

8. The device of claim 1, wherein said at least one applicator comprises a drop on demand (DOD) jet.

9. A method for coating a stent comprising:

providing a stent having a substantially cylindrical shape with an interior and an exterior, said stent comprising at least one strut having regions with exposed surfaces disposed around the periphery of said strut;

positioning said stent and at least one applicator relative to one another in spaced apart relation and

dispensing a coating from said applicator onto said stent such that said coating material is allowed to flow around said strut surfaces to form a substantially uniform coating on a plurality of said exposed strut surfaces.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said step of positioning at least one applicator comprises positioning one applicator disposed on an exterior aspect of a substantially cylindrical stent.

11. The device of claim 9, wherein said step of positioning at least one applicator comprises positioning two applicators disposed on an exterior aspect of a substantially cylindrical stent.

12. The device of claim 9, wherein said step of positioning at least one applicator comprises positioning one applicator disposed on an interior aspect of a substantially cylindrical stent.

13. The method of claim 9, wherein said step of positioning at least one applicator comprises positioning two applicators disposed on an interior aspect of a substantially cylindrical stent.

14. The method of claim 9, wherein said step of positioning at least one applicator comprises positioning at least one applicator disposed on an exterior aspect and at least one applicator disposed on an interior aspect of a substantially cylindrical stent.

15. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of sensing the stent topography, and using said topography in said positioning step.

16. The method of claim 9, wherein said dispensing step further comprises dispensing material from a drop on demand (DOD) jet.

17. The method of claim 10, wherein said positioning step further comprising the step of targeting the center of a strut outer surface, and

adjusting drop size and drop velocity parameters of said applicator so as to achieve full strut encapsulation by said dispensing step.

18. The method of claim 10, wherein said positioning step further comprising the step of targeting first one side, then another side, of a strut outer surface,

said dispensing step comprises the step of dispensing first at one side, then another side, of a strut outer surface, and

adjusting drop size, drop velocity and drop location parameters of said applicator so as to achieve full strut encapsulation.

19. The method of claim 14, wherein said positioning step further comprising the step of targeting the center of a strut outer surface and a strut inner surface, and

adjusting drop size and drop velocity parameters of said applicator so as to achieve full strut encapsulation by said dispensing step.